(c) if so, his reaction thereto and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The Government propose to set up a National Judicial Commission which would also draw up a Code of Ethics for the Judiciary. The proposal, however, would require Parliamentary legislation.

National Competition Policy for protection of domestic industry

†731. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experts have suggested to formulate a national competition policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such a policy is necessary for protection of domestic industry in this era of economic reforms; and

(c) if so, by when this policy would be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The Government has recently constituted a committee of experts with a view to examine the existing law (the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969) so as to shift its focus from curbing monopolies to promoting competition and to suggest a modern competition law in line with international developments to suit Indian conditions.

The Committee has been asked to submit its report within a period of three months. The Committee has requested time upto 31st March, 2000 to submit its report.

Law Commission's recommendation on judge population ratio

†732. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the recommendation of Law Commission there should be 50 judges for ten lakh of population; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The 11th Law Commission in its 120th Report, which was placed before the Parliament in the year 1988, had, *inter alia*, recommended that the present strength of 10.5 Judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population.

With regard to the strength of Judges in the High Courts, among other factors, institution and pendency of cases are very relevant.

The strength of Subordinate judiciary is determined by the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts. The Law Commission's Report has been accordingly forwarded to all the State Governments.

The matter relating to increase in Judge strength has now become sub judice in view of W.P. No. 399/98 alongwith I.A. No. 1 filed in the Supreme Court of India.

But the Government is *prima facie* of the view that the number of Judges does require to be increased almost at all levels.

Bench of Kerala High Court at Trivandrum

733. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to have a bench of Kerala High Court at Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, by when it would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala, in consultation with the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, for establishing a bench of the High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. As such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.